

University of Dundee

Protocol for a realist evaluation of interventions to increase nature connection in children

Barrable, Alexia; Jindal-Snape, Divya

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Protocol for a realist evaluation of interventions to increase nature connection in children

Alexia Barrable & Divya Jindal-Snape

Rationale

- Nature connection (NC) positively associated with increased wellbeing (Capaldi, Dopko & Zelenski, 2014 ; Pritchard, Richardson & Sheffield, 2019)
- NC linked with pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours (Nisbet, Zelenski & Murphy, 2009)
- NC has been identified as a distinct goal for environmental education (Frantz & Mayer, 2014)), outdoor education (Barrable & Arvanitis, 2019) and as an early childhood education goal (Barrable, 2019).

Why a realist review?

- Complex problem – complex solutions (Pawson, Greenhalgh, Harvey, & Walshe, 2005)
- Commonly used in healthcare to study context specific interventions

Objectives

Nature connection in children

How?

When?

Where?



Who?

Why?

How long?

Methodology

Phase 1

Defining the scope of the review, by identifying the question(s) that it aims to answer and clarifying its purpose.

Phase 2

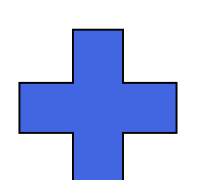
Search for evidence in the literature. Define strategy for searching, including terms and sources. Appraise for relevance and rigour.

Phase 3

Articulating initial theories through exploration of literature. Inform this process through data collection from stakeholders with the aim of refining theory.

Phase 4

Extract findings and synthesise narrative, including both confirmatory and contradictory evidence. Refine programme theories through both primary and secondary data



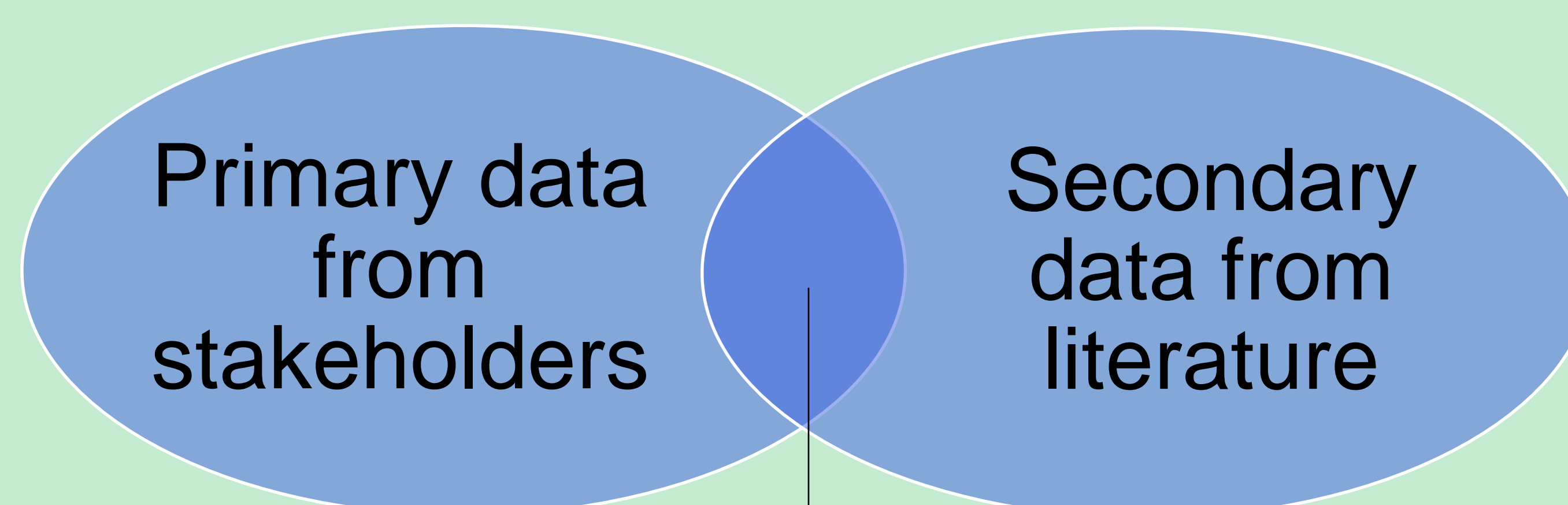
Inclusion criteria: Peer-reviewed and PhD theses; English language; majority of participants under 18; experimental or quasi-experimental

Exclusion criteria: Not in English; adult participants; observational studies

Qualitative data from stakeholders:

- Practitioners
- NGOs
- Academics
- Children

Analysis



Realist synthesis

Search terms: nature connect*, nature relatedness, inclusion of nature in self, emotional affinity with nature, ecological identity AND Intervention, testing, evaluation

Data bases: PsychInfo, Web of Science, ERIC, SSRN, Scopus, Google Scholar

Dissemination

Given the nature of realist evaluations, this project aims to produce **meaningful** and **actionable** recommendations for practitioners in the field of formal and informal education, in which nature connection is an explicit or implicit aim.

We, therefore, aim to disseminate not just through academic channels, but through the use of other communications with the public, including infographics, and popular media.

Can you
help?



abarrable@dundee.ac.uk